

Alice Doyle of **Log House Plants** in Cottage Grove has been working for the past five years with Dutch and American horticultural researchers to refine and market a “Ketchup ‘n’ Fries” grafted plant that grows potatoes underground and tomatoes above ground. Potatoes and tomatoes are related, and the first such graft was recorded in the early 1900s by Luther Burbank. The local Territorial Seed Company will have a national exclusive to sell mail-order plants and “I’m sure they’ll see quite a bit of action,” Doyle says. Log House will have the plants available in April. The grafted “TomTato” plant got national attention on *The Colbert Report* recently. See the video at wkly.ws/1uy.

A new program offered by **Fertilab Thinkubator** launched this fall called ID8. It has been helping founders working on “concept stage companies” to connect with mentors and learn about resources in the area. Companies in the first class of ID8 include Flash PV (Andrew Ritenour and Matthew Robertson), Cognitopia (Tom Keating), Upvote.com (Tony Marostica), Restatement of Style (Danny Kim), Third Ocean (Kevin Bull, Esteban Vollenweider, Garrett Dunlavy and Richard Harris), ValleyChem (Danielle Murphy), Sit with Me (Nathan Gustafson, Galen Mitterman, Krell TheHuman, Mateus Carvalho and Dena Zaldua) and LightDance (Paul Garrett and Dylan Garrett). The series will conclude with a public pitch event at 5 pm Thursday, Dec. 18, at 390 Lincoln St., Suite 250. Contact David Youngentob at david@fertilabthinkubator.com.

Hop Valley Brewing and the **Lane Blood Center** are teaming up again this year hoping to bring the total tally of the partnership to 10,000 donations of blood. Everyone over 21 who gives a pint of blood between now and the end of January will receive a voucher for a free pint of Hop Valley brew or any non-alcoholic beverage (redeemable at both Hop Valley Brewing Company locations) and a souvenir pint glass. Hop Valley has also brought back “Strong at Heart” stout, last year’s seasonal brew named in honor of blood donors. A special blood drive will be from 4 to 7 pm Monday, Dec. 29, at Hop Valley at 980 Kruse Way in Springfield. Call 484-9111 or visit laneblood.org.

Will your restaurant or food cart be **open Christmas Day**? We figure the chain restaurants and Asian eateries usually stay open. We have mixed thoughts about restaurant workers having to show up on a family-oriented holiday, but if you will be open, let us know and we’ll add you to a list we’ll run just before Christmas on our website and on Facebook. Some folks really enjoy dining out Christmas Day and the tips should be good. Email editor@eugeneweekly.com.



GAIL KARUNA-VETTER, KIM MARKS AND OBLIO STROYMAN

ECO-CONSCIOUS GENDER-INCLUSIVE PLEASURE SHOP OPENS

Viewed from the little parking lot off West 11th, As You Like It looks like any artsy boutique in town; a wall of windows covered with delicate black-lace curtains reveal warm wood floors and beams and display shelves sparkling with treasures. The space is a far cry from the windowless shops around Eugene, but make no mistake, this is a sex store, or rather an “eco-conscious, green, gender-inclusive sex toy shop.”

Owner Kim Marks had a soft opening for As You Like It Friday, Dec. 12, and will host a grand opening Jan. 17 and Jan. 18. “It’s a different vibe,” Marks says. “This store focuses more on sexual health and education as part of service.”

The last time *EW* caught up with Marks, As You Like It was only online, and Marks was hosting sex-positive parties around the region. She was looking to open a store in Eugene or Portland, but she found support in Eugene, and Portland is already home to similar progressive sex shops such as She Bop, she says.

As You Like It is different from the average sex store in several ways, Marks says; the goal is be open, welcoming and informative. Marks has brought on staff Oblio Stroyman, who also co-owns The Redoux Parlour and, until recently, was a practicing marriage and family therapist, and Gail Karuna-Vetter, a licensed massage therapist and a clinical herbalist.

“It’s a place where people can come in and ask questions and get support,” Stroyman says.

Karuna-Vetter nods in agreement. “Talking about sex and sexuality can be very difficult for people,” she says. “Our culture doesn’t really support us being fully open and honest with our needs. What we’re hoping to create here is an environment where people feel comfortable coming in and talking to a knowledgeable sales staff that help them with their sales questions without making them feel embarrassed or too uncomfortable.”

The gender-inclusive piece, the three agree, also sets the store apart. “I really want to be for everybody and every body,” she says. “Everything I sell works for *every* body.” Beyond the average sex-toy fare — lubricants, vibrators, butt plugs, dildos and whips — As You Like It offers an entire “gender expression” section including breast forms and stand-to-pee devices.

For Marks, who also works fulltime for Greenpeace, the shop had to be eco-sexual — or eco-conscious and nontoxic. As You Like It carries only non-toxic and phthalate-free products (phthalates, used in many sex toys, have been found to be carcinogenic). And she prefers buying from local vendors; most of her products come from the West Coast and many are made here in Eugene, like leather products from Painful Pleasures.

The store will host educational workshops too.

“There’s going to be people coming in to talk about, not just sex, but relationships,” Stroyman says. Marks adds that there will be workshops on health and wellbeing, and she’s planning a discussion group for women experiencing perimenopause.

In spite of local support, Marks says she faced many obstacles in trying to open the store. “I was turned down by I think seven landlords because they didn’t like my type of business,” she says. “There’s tons of bias in this industry. There’s even more bias I think in towns where they’ve never seen a more progressive [shop] too.”

In Marks’ experience, “people calm down when they actually see the space or the website.”

As You Like It is located at 1655 W. 11th Ave., No. 1. See asyoulikeitshop.com for details. — Alex V. Cipolle

MUPTE REVIEW PROCESS DELAYED UNTIL JANUARY

A decision on the future of Eugene’s Multiple-Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE) program has been delayed by the Eugene City Council until Jan. 26, since Councilor Claire Syrett could not make the Dec. 8 meeting. MUPTE has come under heavy criticism by citizens and some council members for giving big tax breaks to out-of-state developers for housing projects that might have been built even without the subsidies. The latest council action regarding MUPTE will focus on creating a review process.

The new Capstone housing project downtown, which got a 10-year property tax break through MUPTE, has been described as an eyesore and an example of poor city planning. The housing is built right up against the sidewalk, and the huge project contains no greenspace or other public amenities. Capstone is also the subject of lawsuits and complaints about labor practices and shoddy work in its construction, including allegations of unsanitary, unsafe working conditions, ambulances carrying away injured workers and sub-contract laborers being paid in cash.

POLLUTION UPDATE

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has once again found **Pacific Recycling** to be in violation of the Clean Water Act at its facility on Cross Street (near Roosevelt Boulevard) in Eugene (see *EW* 6/19, goo.gl/0lcqbj regarding a \$327,686 fine assessed against Pacific Recycling in June). DEQ sent Pacific Recycling a warning letter in November for “failing to adequately stabilize or cover soil stockpiles.” The stockpiles contain soil contaminated with wood treatment agents from neighboring **J.H. Baxter** and have been present on the Pacific Recycling site for over a year, during which time “DEQ has received numerous reports of poor management of the soil piles (spe-

cifically related to keeping the piles covered and managing runoff water).” DEQ is accepting comments through 5 pm Dec. 19 on the proposed renewal of the “closure permit” for a former **Pope & Talbot** industrial waste landfill in Oakridge (currently owned by **Hills Creek Properties LLC**). Go to goo.gl/9IHsdQ for more information.

DEQ recently sent **Jeanne M. Burris** a pre-enforcement notice for illegal waste tire storage at property owned by Burris at 29882 Kelso St. in Eugene. This notice follows up on a warning letter that DEQ sent to Burris for the same violation in July of last year (see *EW* 8/8/13, goo.gl/8za9J3). The 2013 warning letter gave Burris until Jan. 15, 2014 to address the problem, but it appears that Burris has failed to do so.

The recent notice gives Burris until the end of this year to correct the problem.

DEQ also recently sent a warning letter to **Schnitzer Steel Industries** illegally transporting waste tires on rims from the Kelso Street site to its Eugene facility, de-rimming them, and then transporting them back to the Kelso Street site. DEQ points out that “[i]mproper storage of waste tires can create fire hazards and provide habitat for noxious insects and rodents.”

DEQ is accepting comments on the erosion and sediment control plan for **Hayden Homes’ Glacier Meadows Subdivision** in Springfield until 5 pm Dec. 15. Visit goo.gl/Yp4iAK for information on commenting.

— Doug Quirke/
Oregon Clean Water Action Project